GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5486
ANSWERED ON:06.04.2017
Upgradation of Roads/State Highways/NHs
Charitra Shri Ram;Pandey Shri Ravindra Kumar;Puttaraju Shri C.S.;Shetti Shri Raju alias Devappa Anna;Wanaga Shri Chintaman Navsha

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has established parameters/norms for declaring roads and State Highways as National Highways, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has received proposals from different States regarding upgradation of roads/State Highways as National Highways during the last three years, if so, the details thereof and the State/UT-wise action taken/being taken by the Government on these proposals;

(c) whether cases of irregularities/ corruption in the maintenance of National Highways have come to the notice of the Government during the said period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the corrective measures adopted/being adopted by the Government in this regard, State/UT and National Highways-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN)

(a) State roads are declared as new National Highways (NHs) from time to time on the basis of well established principles; the criteria for State roads for declaration as new NHs include roads running through length / breadth of the country, connecting adjacent countries, National Capitals with State Capitals / mutually the State Capitals, major ports, non-major ports, large industrial centers or tourist centers, roads meeting very important strategic requirement in hilly and isolated area, arterial roads which enable sizeable reduction in travel distance and achieve substantial economic growth thereby, roads which help opening up large tracts of backward area and hilly regions (other than strategically important ones), achieving a National Highways grid of 100 km, etc.

(b) The Ministry keeps on receiving proposals for declaration of State roads as new NHs from various State Governments which are examined keeping in view the requirement of connectivity, inter-se-priority and availability of funds. The Ministry has declared about 21,131 km length of State roads/routes as new NHs in the country during the last three years. The State/UT-wise details of such new NHs is annexed.

Further, the Ministry has approved "In-Principle" declaration of about 57,500 km length of State roads as new NHs subject to outcome of their Detailed Project Reports (DPRs).

(c) and (d) No cases of irregularities / corruption in maintenance works on NHs, including such works on newly declared NHs, have been reported during the last three years. However, whenever any complaints of irregularities/ corruption in works on NHs come to the notice of the Government, detailed investigations are carried out in such cases and disciplinary actions are taken up in accordance with Central Vigilance Commission guidelines; further, necessary actions are also taken up towards execution of rectifications / corrective works as per the provisions of the Contract / Concession Agreements.

Various initiatives taken towards prevention of corruption and bringing in more transparency and accountability in highway sector include adoption of Integrity Pact, engagement of National Level Project Monitors (NLPMs), etc.